

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Autauga Soil Quality and Plant Health**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:
Ranking Tool: Autauga Soil Quality and Plant Health	
Final Ranking Score:	
Planner:	
Farm Location:	

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)

Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. B. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)

6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. G - Answer YES if applicant has NEVER had an EQIP contract? (30 points)	30 Point(s)
2. SQ1 - Will all Class IIIE, IVE, VE, VIE, VIIE, or VIIIE cropland be converted to permanent cover (grass or trees)? Conversion must be on more than half of all offered acres. If answer to this question is yes, answers to SQ2, SQ3, and SQ4 must be no. (75points)	75 Point(s)
3. SQ2 - Will the applicant establish perennial grasses in rotation on the land that is offered in this application? If answer to this question is yes, answers to SQ1, SQ3, and SQ4 must be no. (10 points)	40 Point(s)

9. SQ3 - The applicant will adopt reduced Tillage - 345 (which requires a cover crop) from a conventional system that they are current performing or increase the level of reduced Tillage that they currently have been achieving. If answer to this question is yes, answers to SQ1, SQ2, and SQ4 must be no.(27 points)	30 Points (s)
10. SQ4 - The applicant will adopt Conservation Tillage - 345 at a higher level than they are currently performing. If answer to this question is yes, answers to SQ1, SQ2, and SQ3 must be no.(20) points)	20 Point (s)
12. SQ6 - Is applicant willing to use legumes included in the cover crop in a conservation tillage system on more than half of all the offered acres? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
13. SQ7 - Is ephemeral gully erosion or a classical (caving type) gully or critically eroding areas present in or near the field, and is applicant willing to install practices necessary to treat the erosion and reduce off-site damages? This question can apply to any land use. (37 points)	37 Point(s)
14. Will the offered acres address water quality impairments? Must be in a 12 digit watershed with a stream segment on the ADEM 303d list due to pollution from agricultural source (GIS layer "AL2016 303d_line") or a TMDL stream with an agricultural related pollutant (GIS layer "2016_AL_approved_TMDLs_lines (10 points)	10 Point(s)
15. Will the offered acres benefit T&E aquatic species within a Strategic Habitat Unit (GIS polygon layer "SHUs" or within 1 mile upstream of Critical Habitat (GIS layer "crithab_line")? (8 points)	8 Point(s)
Answer ALL of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects impact on addressing resource concerns. Maximum points 100.	
1. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to improve plant productivity, health and vigor. (21 Points)	20 Point(s)
1. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants in areas where they are not typically suited or adapted to grow. (21 Points)	20 Points (s)

1. c The Schedule of Operations includes practices or supports the use of existing practices (such as; cover crops, residue management, and residue and tillage management) which will result in a positive Soil Condition Index (SCI) score as determined by RUSLE II.(7 points)	7 Points(s)
1. d The Schedule of Operations includes supporting practices necessary to support a new or existing seasonal high tunnel in order to address soil erosion.(7 points)	7 Point(s)
Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address excess nutrients and organics in surface water.	
2. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated ?impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.) (15 points)	15 Point(s)
2. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body? (6 points)	6 Points (s)
Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address harmful levels of pesticides in surface water.	
3. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated ?impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.). (19 points)	19 Point(s)
3. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body? (6 points)	6 Point(s)

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the resource concern be implemented on the land use category of Cropland?	100 Point(s)
2. Will the resource concern be implemented on Land Capability Class of I or II?	75 Point(s)
3. Will the resource concern be implemented on Land Capability Class of III or IV?	50 Point(s)
4. Will the resource concern be implemented on Land Capability Class of V or greater?	25 Point(s)

Land Use:

Crop;

Farmstead;

Other;

Pasture;

Resource Concerns	Practices
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion	Diversion
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion	Grade Stabilization Structure
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Brush Management
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Critical Area Planting
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Grassed Waterway
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Herbaceous Weed Control
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Land Smoothing
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Mulching
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Riparian Forest Buffer
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Terrace
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Underground Outlet
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Water and Sediment Control Basin
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Conservation Cover
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Contour Buffer Strips
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Field Border
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Forage and Biomass Planting
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Heavy Use Area Protection
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	Conservation Crop Rotation
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	Cover Crop
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	Integrated Pest Management
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	Nutrient Management
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion	Residue Mgmt, Reduced Till

Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:
Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected. An application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required report for Contract Development required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: